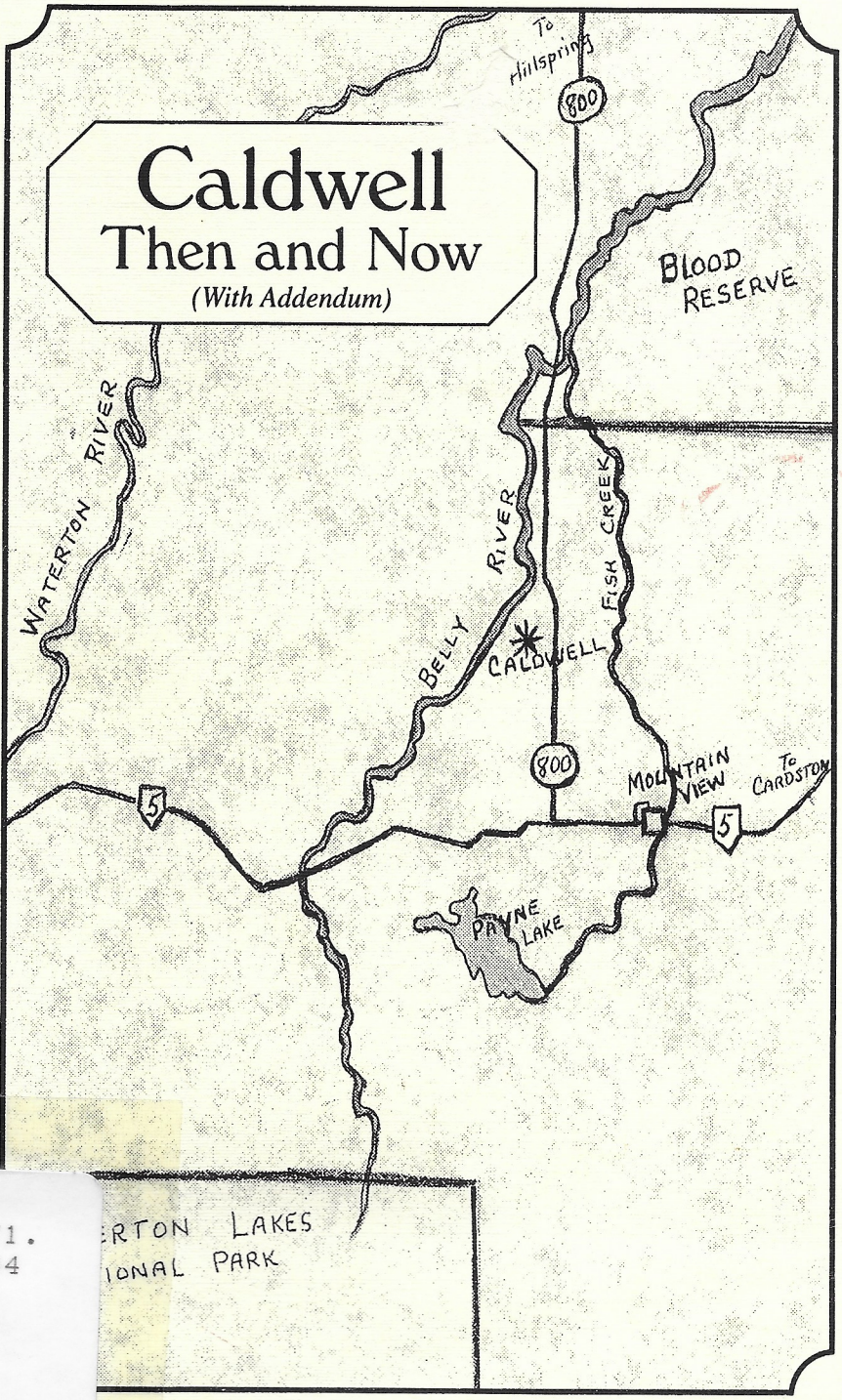

Caldwell
Then and Now
(With Addendum)

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Dated April 30, 1997

MAGRATH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Caldwell

Then and Now

Compiled and written by
Elaine Jacobs Nelson
1995

Dedicated to the members of the
James and Eva Malmberg Jacobs Posterity
and all others interested in
Caldwell, Alberta, Canada
before and after the pioneers moved away

Preface

Caldwell, the place where I grew up and called home until both of my parents were gone in 1974, doesn't exist anymore. Knowing what a change there has been since I first saw it in 1910, and being motivated by a Daughters of Utah Pioneers lesson on early pioneer communities, I decided I would be responsible for gathering all that I could find of the origin of Caldwell and put that together with what has happened in the last 85 years, for the benefit of this and future generations. This will be the history of Caldwell, Northwest Territories and after 1905, Caldwell, Alberta, Canada.

Today one would not know that ninety years ago there was the small town with a population of 300 living in the townsite. Quoting from 3rd Nephi 5:16-17 " I make my record from accounts which have been given by those who were before me, until the commencement of my day, and then I make a record which I have seen with my own eyes."

Since all of the original settlers are gone and most of their children, I have gathered all I can find from written accounts of them in local history books of Hill Spring, Glenwood, Cardston and Mountain View. I have interviewed or corresponded with children or grandchildren of the James Caldwell, David H. Caldwell, Abraham V. Caldwell, Alvin Caldwell, Isaac W. Allred, Ole Olsen, and others. All of these have given me added information.

Acknowledgements

My Thanks to the following for allowing me to read and use information from histories written by older family members: Ethel Caldwell Pitcher, daughter of James Albert Caldwell, Alice Caldwell Burt daughter of Abraham Alvin Caldwell. Orvilla Allred Stevens daughter of Golden Allred who was the son of Isaac W. Allred the last bishop of Caldwell, for the ward picture and the family history.

The support of my brothers and sisters encouraged me to stay with it. My sister in law Truda Jacobs made the sketch of our home before it was remodelled in about 1940, the map of the area showing Caldwell as the centre of our universe and was the photographer for the snap shots of the Church House as it is today, the original two-roomed log house built about 1900 as a part of the home of Dennis and Diana Jacobs as it is today, the Fish Creek grave yard and the old telephone.

Thanks to Lila Cahoon for typing the manuscript, putting it on a disc and advising me as to what to do.

Lastly appreciation to Logan McCarthy and boys for making up the booklet.

Elaine J. Nelson

David Henry Caldwell Sr. of St. John, Tooele, Utah, with five grown sons and three married daughters as well as three younger daughters, was looking for a place where they could make a better living. In the spring of 1897 glowing reports were being circulated about the opportunities for farming and ranching in Alberta, Canada. His eldest son, David Henry Jr., went to investigate. He found a beautiful country with high grass and plenty of water. The family decided to make the move by the next spring.

After selling their homes, livestock and other interests, the Caldwells left the town of St. John, Tooele, Utah for Canada, on the 27th of May in 1898. The group consisted of David Henry Caldwell Sr., his wife Fannie Catherine Johnson, three single daughters, one married daughter Alice Caldwell Morgan with two children, as well as sons David Henry Jr. and wife Sarah, James Albert and wife Catherine, John Edgar with wife Vilate, Abraham Alvin with wife Minnie and their families, and Walter Caldwell, a young man. They were joined by two married daughters from Mount Pleasant; Caroline Caldwell and husband Samuel J. Gillman and Adeline Caldwell with husband Alfred Garner and their families. There were 47 people in a horse drawn caravan of sixteen covered wagons and driving a small band of horses. Furniture was shipped by railway to Lethbridge 80 miles away. In the winter word came that it had arrived so the men went for it in very cold weather.

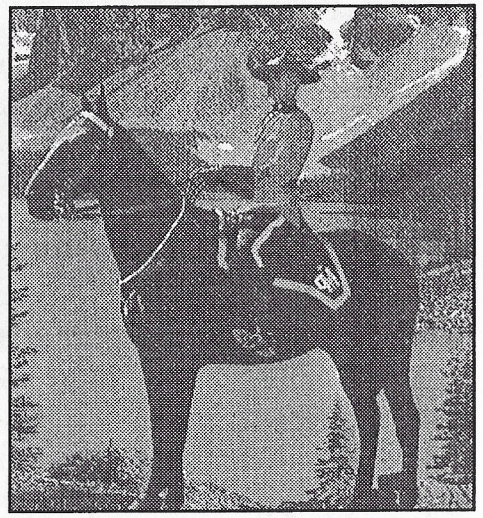
Fannie Morgan Brown wrote a history of the Caldwells in Alberta. She was the daughter of Alice Caldwell Morgan and granddaughter of David Henry Sr. and as a little girl came to Canada with the first group. She wrote: "After weeks we arrived at the Milk River Ridge and crossed the Canadian line the 15th day of July 1898. There was a shower. As we looked down into Alberta the sun came out and I shall never forget the sight. There was grass to the horses belly, sparkling like diamonds in the last rays of the sun, with small lakes as far as the eye could see, and the majestic Rockies and Old Chief Mountain in the distance."

In Cardston they were told homesteads were available west of Mountain View. They settled on a beautiful flat on the East bank of the Belly River between the river and Fish Creek. She continues, "The men got busy and laid out a town site calling it Caldwell. Grandfather bought a place down on Belly River and was able to move in. Uncle Walter and Uncle John Johnson, a half brother of grandmother Fannie Catherine Johnson, built two large rooms onto the house where my mother and my brother and I lived until we could get a log house built. To build log houses men had to get logs from the mountains and lumber from Fort Macleod sixty miles away. The fall was coming on so fast the men built a large barn for Uncle Henry and pitched a tent for his family in one corner and one for Uncle Ed and his family in another corner. They worked on Uncle Alvin's house and it was almost ready when the first snow came."

Quoting Fern Caldwell Smith, the oldest daughter of Alvin

Church in the background

who had been born in Utah, "When all had their cabins built it was quite a community. Grandpa and Grandma had a house down by the river. To me it was a wonderful place with lots of trees and the river near by. In Caldwell there wasn't a tree in sight."



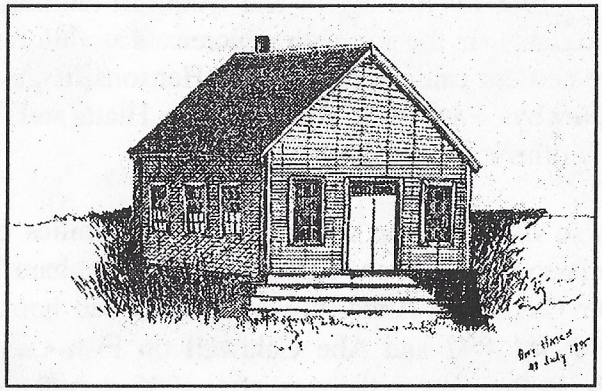
There was a North West Mounted Police Detachment two miles north across the Belly River adjacent to the Blood Indian Reservation. These were the 'Red Coats' whose responsibility was to enforce law and order to natives and settlers alike. Later they were known as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

In the spring of 1899 the families of the Allreds, Terrys, Vickerys, Bills, and Allans arrived. By 1900 the Billingsley and Woodruff families were there. In the next ten years the population increased as children were born and more settlers came. There were Hansons, Rigbys, Beaves', Carters, Newbys, Pattersons, Christiansens, Hiatts and I don't know how many others.

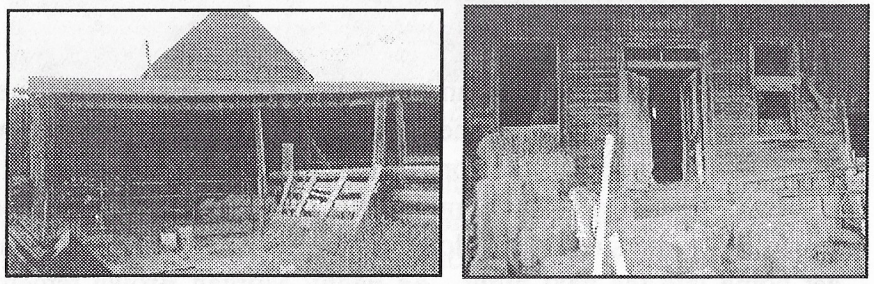
Also living in the district were the families of John and Mary Anderson, Charles and Janet Moir, and Abraham V. and Mary Jane Moir Caldwell. Andersons and Moirs had homesteaded on Fish Creek in 1892 and Abe Caldwell on Fish Creek in 1895. Across the Belly River to the west after 1906, was the headquarters of the Mormon Church Ranch where the family of Ole and Lottie Olsen lived.

In the winter of 1899 and 1900 Dahl Caldwell, son of James Caldwell, remembers his father and others hauling logs from the foothills and lumber from Fort Macleod to build a church and a school. Those who hauled lumber, after taking a day to get to Fort Macleod, would stop in Standoff with their load the first night and get home late the next night. As Fanny Morgan Brown remembered, "We built a fine church for those days". It was built on a side

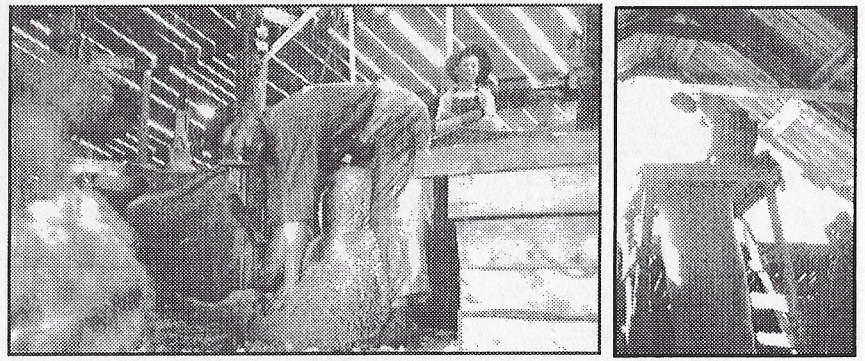
hill facing east and put on a rock foundation. There were three windows on the north and the south sides and a window on each side of a double door on the east. There was a low platform across the west end of the room with a pulpit centre front. There was a wide uncovered porch across the east end of the building with steps down to ground level the full width of the east and south sides. The church is used as a central part of a barn today and because of its dilapidated condition we see how it was built and why it has stood sturdy and strong for 95 years. The walls were hewn logs standing upright, shaped so that they fit together closely, flat on the outside and inside so that lath and plaster could be put on the inside and siding on the outside. On the walls was a four foot panelled wainscotting below the plaster and a six inch baseboard finished off the bottom of the walls. Looking through the open ceiling because the plaster has fallen, we see that the rafters and beams were sturdy planks. Now that the porch has gone, it can be seen that the flooring was nailed to logs shaped and placed side by side as on the



The Church then



The Church now



Tithing Barn as a shearing shed

walls. The foundation of flat rocks made a firm base for the building. Dahl remembered the rejoicing of the community when it was finished in 1900. On the block west of the church was the big tithing barn built of lumber. It burnt down about 1918.

Besides church services and social activities the first formal education was given in the church until the school house could be built. Emily Caldwell Lee Burt, one of the students, recalled that in place of school desks, work tables were built, put on hinges and hooked to the wall so that they could be let down for school. The school house of lumber and painted red was built on the side of the hill a block north of the church and put on a rock foundation. There were three windows on the north and one each in the east and the west with the door in the west. The windows were all so high that young students couldn't see above the window sill. There was a small entrance and coat room over the west door with the outside door to the north. The furniture consisted of a big coal stove surrounded by a protective metal jacket in the north east corner, a teacher's table and chair, several home made double desks ranging from small to large and a small book case for the scanty library and school supplies such as chalk, raffia, and busy work materials. The chalk board was on the south wall. The outhouses for boys and girls were back to back east of the school house. A unique feature of these buildings was that the seats were put in at an angle instead of flat, with big rough holes sawed in them. Very uncomfortable. There was no well.

Those who were members of the Church of Jesus Christ of

Caldwell Ward on Church steps. Early 1905

Latter-day Saints in Caldwell were organized into a branch of the church the 11th of December 1898 with David H. Caldwell Sr. as presiding elder. They were organized into a ward on the 18th of September 1899 with David H. Caldwell Sr. as bishop and his wife, Fannie, as the first Relief Society President. His counsellors were Charles A. Terry and I. W. Allred with Abraham V. Caldwell as ward clerk. In 1900 David H. Caldwell Sr. was released and made a patriarch. His son David H. Caldwell Jr. was the next bishop with James M. Billingsley and David P. Woodruff as counsellors. In 1904 Isaac W. Allred was put in as bishop with David P. Woodruff and Alvin A. Caldwell as counsellors. These brethren continued in office until the ward was dissolved in 1911, because all of the people who had lived in the town had moved to other places. At one time there were thirty-two families there. Any members who were still in the district became part of the Mountain View Ward. Quoting Fannie Brown, "We had a fine ward with one of the first choirs. We had concerts and dramas. The Caldwells and their in-laws were good singers."

In the account written by Fern Caldwell Smith, there are

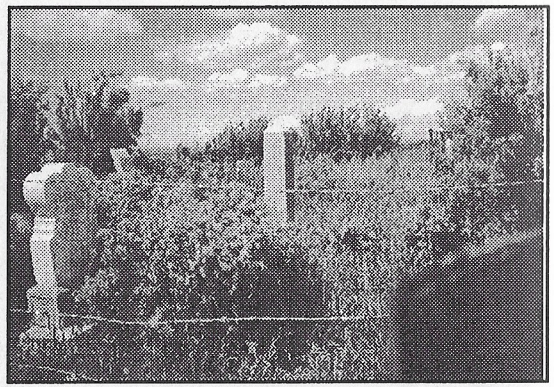
interesting insights into the way of life in this pioneer community. She said, "By the time our land was fenced and a log barn had been built, a very important item was added - a well. The digging required two men for the job. When the hole was too deep to throw the dirt out with a shovel, it was hauled out with a bucket on a rope. It was hard work and took several days. They rejoiced when a good flow of water was reached. A box-like frame was lowered into the well to keep the sides from caving in. Water was drawn by using a pulley and a rope with a bucket tied at the end."

She continued by saying, "The first plowing was done with a hand plow. The lines that guided the horses were tied together and put around the farmers neck, and holding the plow upright by two long wooden handles he would walk behind it and the sod would be turned over in smooth layers. The ground was next gone over with a harrow to prepare the seed bed. When it was ready, he would hang a bag of grain over his shoulder and walk down the field throwing the seed out with his hand. This was done with so many steps to the handful and was called sowing broadcast."

A post office was opened on the 1st of July 1900 on Section 35, Township 2, Range 28, West of the 4th Meridian. The first Post Master was D. H. Caldwell followed by George Vickery. There was a store operated by C. A. Perry. The first school teachers, according to the memory of Max Caldwell, son of Abraham V. Caldwell were Mr. Webb, Mr. Pierce, Miss McCulla and Bessie Oland who married Bert Caldwell.

This was a typical pioneer community. Couples were married, children were born and people died. When it was necessary a site was chosen for a cemetery on a flat down on the Belly River. It was not fenced but I remember there were marked graves and some gravestones. One grave was surrounded by a picket fence. A child was mentioned as being buried in Caldwell in each of the family histories of Charles A. Terry, Robert V. Carter, O. D. Bliss and James M. Billingsley. However, many more were buried there and who they were I have found no record. There is no visible evi-

dence of this graveyard today.



Fish Creek graveyard

There was another graveyard in the district before this one. The Moirs who homesteaded on Fish Creek in 1892 had a child die. An acre of land was chosen as a burial ground on the Moir property on the east bank of Fish Creek. In May of 1900 Helen A. Shaw, wife of Charles Moir, age 65 was buried there. She was the mother of Jemima Jane, the wife of Abraham V. Caldwell. Abraham V. Caldwell was buried here in 1909 and his wife, Jemima Jane, in 1938. Before there was a Mountain View cemetery Emma J. Green, wife of John N. West, was buried here in 1894. Caraganas were planted by the graves in the early days and have taken over along with grass etc. so that other graves having no gravestones can't be located. It is protected from livestock by a secure fence.

As the first decade passed, people had a chance to become more or less accustomed to this part of Canada and decide what their future would be. Some decided to go back to the United States. One man said he didn't want to live in a country where it was so cold the flowers came up in the spring with fur coats on them (referring to our wild crocuses). Most of the families decided to stay in Canada. In 1906 the Mormon Church bought the 65,000 acre Cochrane Ranch for six dollars an acre. It was opened for settlement. As more people were coming and more room was needed in Caldwell, many took this opportunity to buy land there. Those who settled in the Hill Spring area were Alvin Caldwell, Walter Caldwell, Isaac W. Allred, Ernest R. Allred, Alfred Garner, John Anderson, James E. Hanson, Nels Hanson and John Bills. Among those moving to Glenwood were Robert V. Carter, James M. Billingsley, Albert W. Beaves, O. Dwight Bliss, David P. Woodruff,

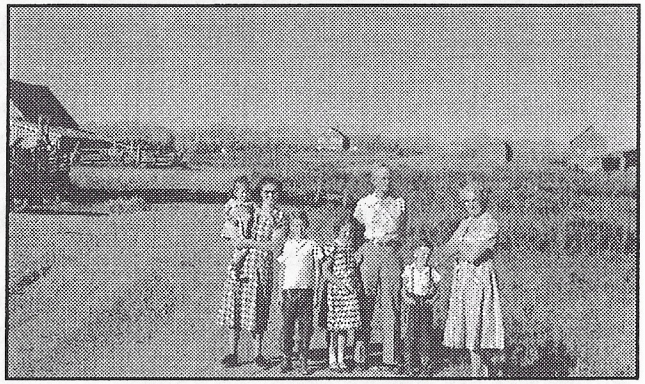
George M. Vickery and Edward Newby. James A. Caldwell moved to Cardston. David H. Caldwell Sr. was buried 1n Cardston in 1904. David H. Caldwell Jr. moved to Cardston in 1909. M. W. Allred and Charles A. Terry moved to Raymond. Samuel J. Gillman moved to Oregon and the Morgans went back to Utah. I have not found where others went. By 1911 all who had lived in the town of Caldwell had moved away, most of them taking their log homes with them. There were two dwelling places left on the townsite as well as the school and church buildings. As Fanny Morgan said, the little hamlet of Caldwell was a closed book.

By 1910 John F. Bradshaw of Magrath learned that the people were leaving or had left Caldwell and had their land for sale. He decided to buy them out and establish a ranch there. He asked James S. Jacobs, my father, to consider moving there as foreman, offering him a third partnership in the company to be known as Bradshaw and Jacobs. John would stock the ranch with 1000 head of heifers. He was a cousin of Dad's mother and Dad had come to Canada in 1900 at the age of sixteen to be a cowboy, with the Bradshaws and others from Lehi, Utah. He had been taking care of John's holdings in Magrath for a couple of winters while the Bradshaws were in Utah.

My parents decided to accept the proposition, sell their homestead at Herronton east of Blackie and move to this new location where they lived the rest of their lives. In 1910 their belongings were loaded into a hayrack and with a friend driving the outfit and Jim driving the stock they had on horseback, they travelled across country to Caldwell, sans road maps, sans bridges, sans fences. The Billingsley home they would live in hadn't been vacated so Jim found a temporary place for his family to live. When things were ready Mother with three children, Elaine age 3, Lucile twenty months, and Mervyn five months, came on the train from High River to Macleod where Dad met us in the afternoon and we drove across country, fording the Waterton and Belly Rivers, arriving at our new home before midnight. We lived in a log house about half a mile north of the town for a short while.

While living there one night the folks awoke to see the paper on the wall on fire. Lucile and I in our trundle bed were put outside. I thought it rained on us, but maybe the water they were using from the water barrel splashed on us. They decided the fire must have been caused by mice chewing on matches on the cupboard. There were no such things as safety matches in those days.

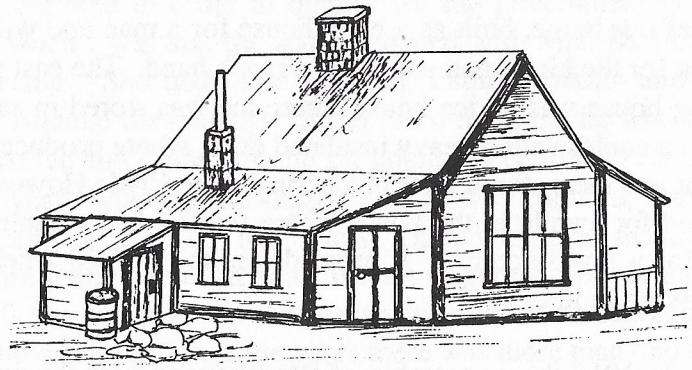
I had just passed my third birthday and having lived on that flat land of the homestead in a small one or two-roomed house and no neighbors, my three-year-old eyes opened wide to see buildings and people close around. The most impressive buildings were the big Meeting House, the School House, and the Tithing Barn. In memory I can still see them in their locations on the hill a block west of our home. Many of the families had moved away and those still there were in the process of moving, so that by 1911 our family was the only one living on the townsite. Since most of the people had moved their homes to their new locations, the townsite was left with our house and another one on the hill a block west of us and across the road south of the church, which John Bradshaw and family lived in when they came here in the summertime. There was an empty log house half a mile north of us and one about a quarter of a mile south. There were places on the town lots where houses had been and old garden spots where very sour green rhubarb continued to grow for two or three years. There were no shrubs or trees.



Church on right background

The house that became our home had been owned by James M. Billingsley. He had bought a two-roomed log house from

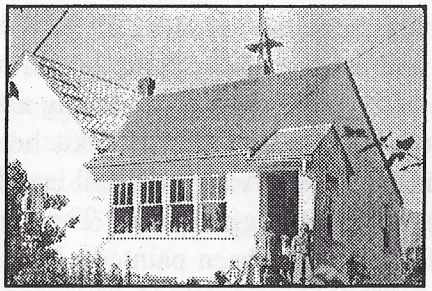
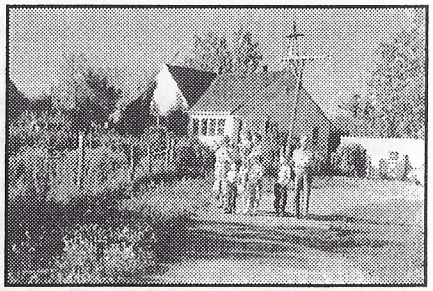
Charles A. Terry which would have been built about 1900. Later he added a lean-to on the south and a covered porch on the north. In the log part there was a large multi-purpose room and a big and small bedroom with two closets. In the lean-to was a kitchen, pantry, bedroom and a large walk-in closet. Across the full length of the north was a covered porch with a railing around it. The logs were covered with siding and the home had been painted. It was heated with a stove in the kitchen and one in the living room. Bedrooms were hot in summer and cold in winter. Water came from a well south east and close to the house with a pump in it. There was a big watering trough by the pump used to water the horses and cows, before the drainage west of the barn was dammed to make a pond. The outhouse was in the yard south of the house. Garden produce was kept in a root cellar. Eventually Mother got a flower bed east of the house. I remember the sweet peas and pansies and hand watering with water pumped from the well. In the early twenties when the government offered free trees for windbreaks to prairie farmers, if they would prepare the land according to instructions, Dad took the opportunity to get trees around the buildings to replace the snow fences. I remember the cultivating, weeding and hoeing necessary to help them get started before irrigation, when the only water they got was from the rain and the snow.



Pencil Sketch of House

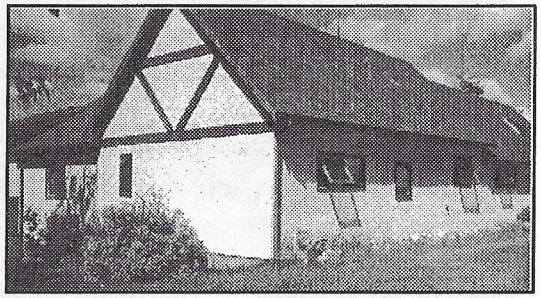
Hard work paid off and the trees grew.

The Caldwell townsite in 1911 was the property of

In 1940's & 50's

Bradshaw and Jacobs. The only family that lived there permanently from that time on was that of Jim and Eva Jacobs. In the first few years three more children came into the family, Lorna Avis in 1911, James Guy in 1913, both born in Caldwell, and in 1916 Beatrice Marie was born in Cardston. Because hired men were needed to help on the ranch in the earlier days there were other families who lived there for short periods of time. In 1913 the George Annand family from Scotland lived in a log house just south of our home, built as a bunk house for a man and wife, she to cook for the hired men and he as a ranch hand. The east part of this log house was an ice house where ice was stored in sawdust around a cooler with a heavy insulated door, where produce could be kept and meat stored after butchering. The Clyde Howes family lived for awhile in the house where the Bradshaw family had lived for a few summers. It burnt down about 1920 when they were living in it.



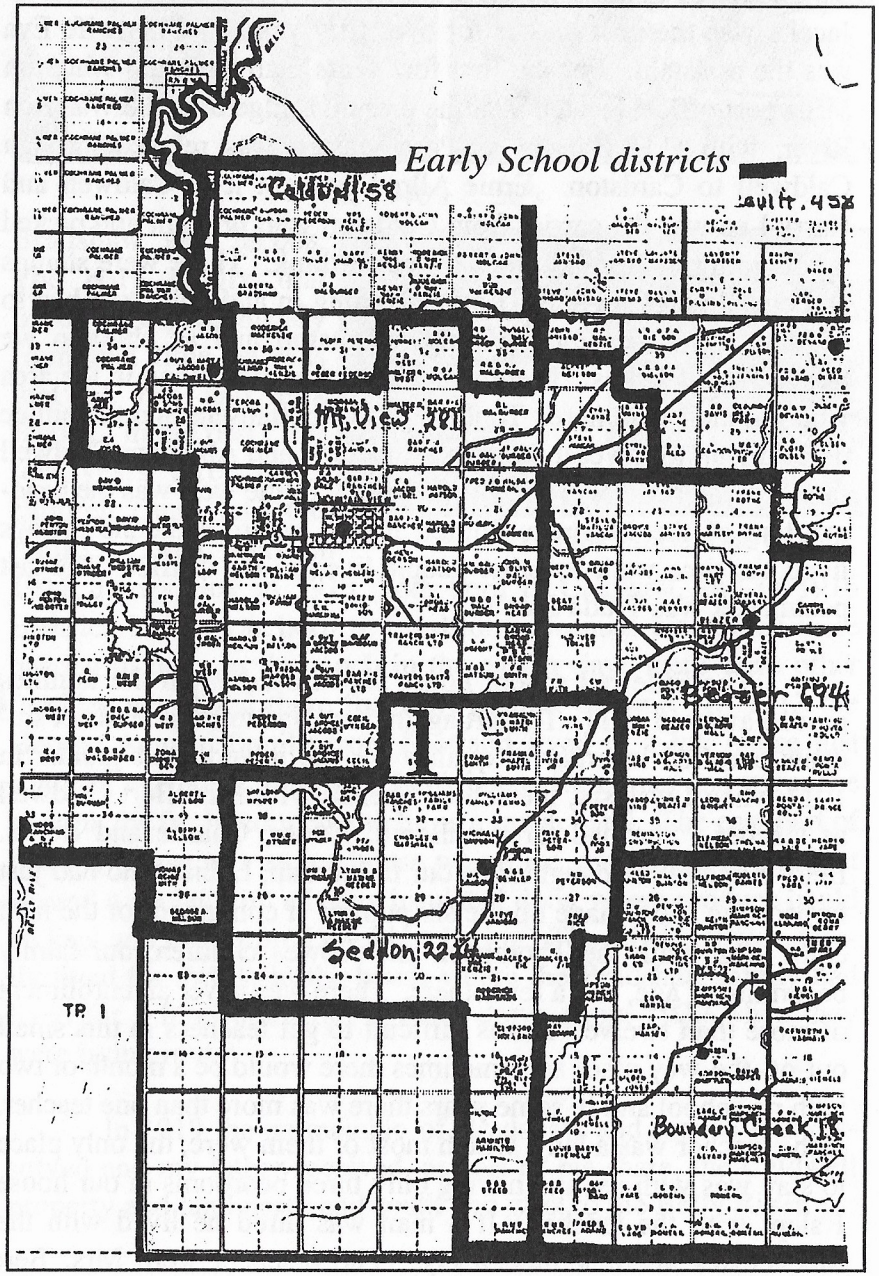
As part of the house today

In 1919 the partnership of Bradshaw and Jacobs was dissolved and my father received, as part of his share, the Caldwell property and land north and south and west to the Belly River.

The location was still known as Caldwell for many years. The church organization no longer existed. The Post Office served the people of the district until the 30th of April 1968. James S. Jacobs was the post master for over fifty years and his wife Eva was the assistant. For the first few years mail from the Waterton Mills post office, located near the present bridge over the Waterton River, with H.H Hanson as Post Master, was relayed through Caldwell to Cardston. Ernie Allred brought it to Caldwell and Harry Lee was the carrier from Cardston who brought and picked up outgoing mail three times a week I think. There were stamps and postal notes for sale. Letters coming in and going out had to be date stamped with the Caldwell stamp and as children we became good at this. There were a few families living in the area who got their mail here. To the north Christiansens and the police detachment, to the east lived the Anderson and Abraham Caldwell families, later McVeys and Mackenzies. To the west was the headquarters of the Mormon Church Ranch where someone always lived. As time went by other people lived in the district. The last postmaster was Truda Jacobs.

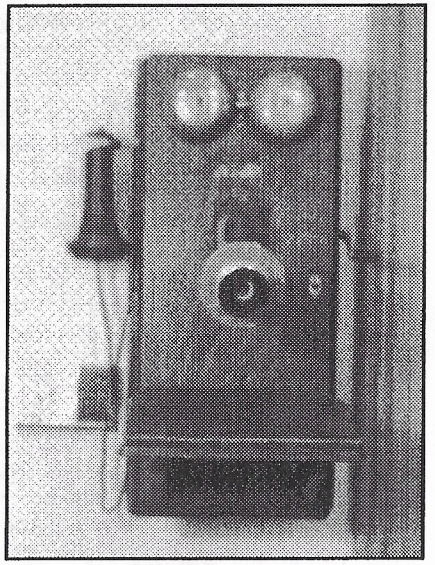
The little red school house was closed when the families moved away in 1911. To start again there had to be at least six students enrolled in order to qualify for the government grant. In 1913 when I was six, the school opened with Mrs. Bert Caldwell as teacher. She had three children, Esther, Charlie and Bertie. Betty Annand the daughter of our hired man, Lucile who had just turned five and I made up the six pupils. It continued for the next eight years with the Thompson and Howes children, our family becoming of age, and a few others. There was never an enrollment of more than twelve. It was difficult to get teachers in this small out-of- the-way place so sometimes there would be a month or two with no school and in some years there was more than one teacher. If the teacher was a lady, which most of them were, the only place to stay was with us, and having only three bedrooms in our house I slept with the teacher. If a man was hired he lived with the Mackenzies about a mile away. The teachers were Mrs. Bert

Caldwell, Arthur Spencer from May to December in 1915, Jehzell Merrill, Walter Brown, Mrs. Jehzell Hendrikson for part of a year, Marjorie Dunn for a few months, Willard Smith for a few months,



Bertha Gibb, Edith Dick and Ethel Brown. In 1921 the district consolidated with Mountain View to make it possible to have a High School. About 1926 Caldwell withdrew from the consolidation. The boundaries were re-arranged so that the old townsite of Caldwell remained in the Mountain View district. The old school house was sold and finally moved to the Lyle Caldwell property on Crooked Creek where it was remodelled into a home. A new school was built on the east side of Fish Creek to accommodate children of families within the new boundaries. It continued to operate until the mid 1930's when it again became part of the Mountain View district and remains so today.

Quoting from a letter dated 10th of November 1981 from the A.G.T. to Mrs. Earl Archibald of Glenwood, "The telephone came in 1914 when the A.G.T. took the Cardston Mountain View toll line and ran an extension to Glenwood. A toll office was opened there as well as Caldwell and Hill Spring." The office was put in our home. The equipment consisted of a switchboard, a telephone for the operator and one for the public, both hanging on the wall much too high for a child to reach.

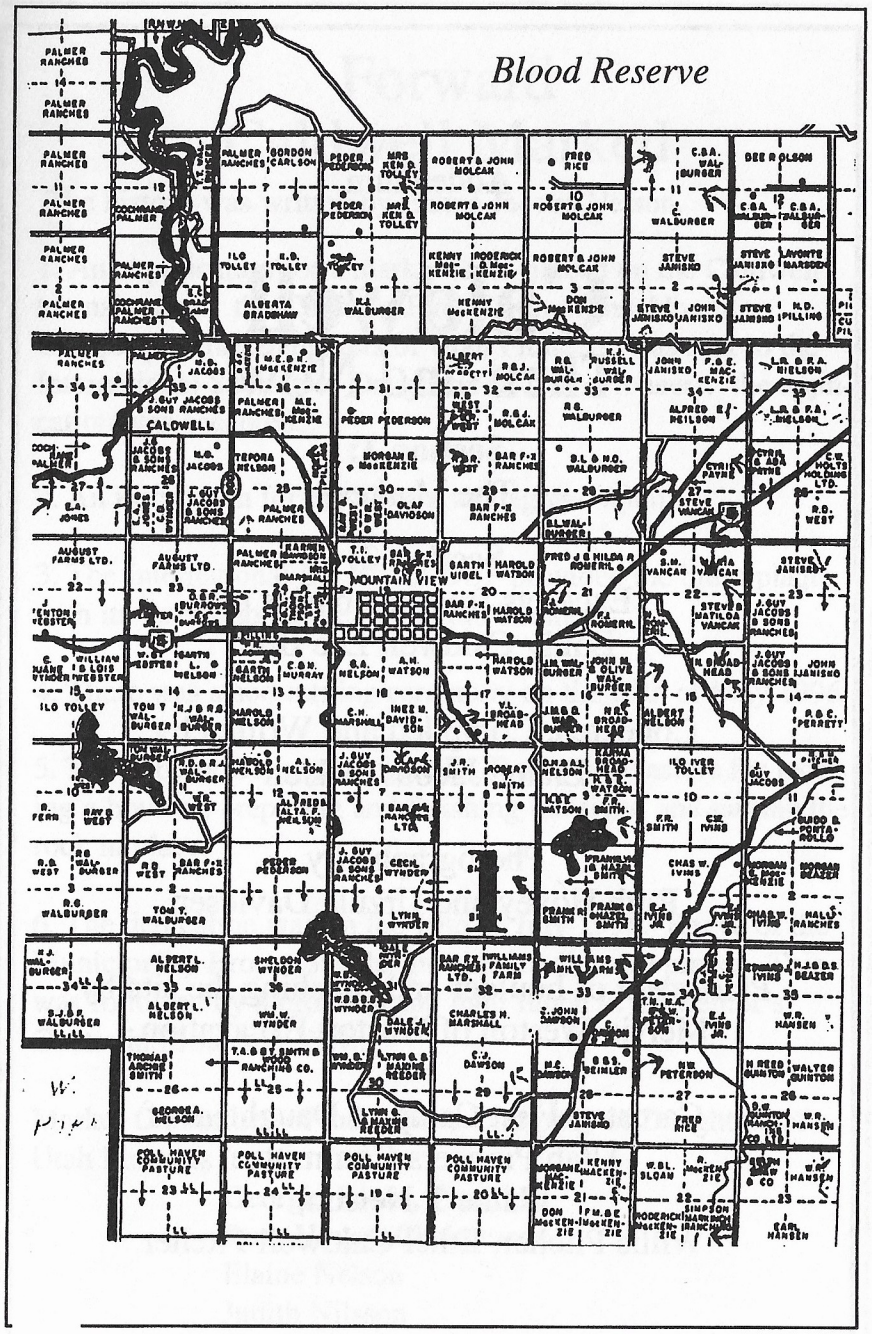


An early telephone

What a traumatic experience it was for me the first time I had to answer the phone because no adults were home. I climbed on a chair to be able to take down the receiver and speak into the mouth piece. My brothers and sisters stood watching in awe. I think the calls were ten cents a piece. By the early 1920's telephones were installed in the homes of the people of the district and a rural party line was set up doing away with the need of a toll office.

Since 1911 there has not been a place that was Caldwell in

the sense that there were permanent families with close neighborhood associations. Although the Jacobs family has lived on the townsite since 1910, just one family doesn't make a town. Because of what it once was, it is still shown on the map of the Municipal District of Cardston. After 1921 the school was no longer there, although the boundary of the district was changed later and a new school was built farther east called Caldwell as long as it operated. The Post Office continued to serve district residents until 1968. When these services were gone Caldwell no longer existed as an entity. Two of the buildings built in the early 1900's on the old townsite are still in use. The one is the church building I've already described and the other is the home we moved into in 1910. Dennis, the son of Guy Jacobs, and his wife Diana now live in this much remodelled dwelling that still includes the original two roomed log house that James M. Billingsley bought from Charles A. Terry in about 1904. Guy Jacobs built his home across the road south of the church in 1941 so now there are two families where thirty-two families once lived. It can't even be considered a ghost town.



Municipal Map 1983

Addendum

Caldwell
Then and Now

Section 1:
The Marker

Section 2:
Excerpts from memories of
Emily Caldwell Lee Burt

Collected, Compiled and Written by
Elaine Jacobs Nelson

Photography by
Ruth Hovey and Urzula Davidsen

Placement of boulder and finishing the site by
Melvin Weston of Weston Excavation

Cardston First Camp of Daughters of
Utah Pioneers Committee
Elaine J. Nelson,
Willis Pitcher, Ethel Caldwell Pitcher

Forward
Caldwell Marked

The history was written by Elaine Jacobs Nelson.

1. An Application for a marker to be placed on the Caldwell townsite from the Cardston First Camp of the Alberta Company of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, was sent to the International Society of Daughters of Utah Pioneers. the application was accepted.

2. An inscription for the plaque was agreed upon.

3. The International Society of DUP provided the brass plaque with its inscription to be put on the boulder.

4. There was a sod turning ceremony on the 25th of May 1996.

5. The Alberta Company of the DUP was responsible for locating a boulder, preparing and finishing the sight, and putting the rock in place.

6. The dedication was on the 19th of July 1996. Reeve of the Municipality Broyce Jacobs gave the dedicatory prayer. This was followed by a program and light lunch in the Senior's Centre in Mountain View.

Marker Committee of the Alberta Company of Daughters of Utah Pioneers

Georgia Fooks, President
Ruth Hovey, Chairperson
Elaine Nelson
Judith Nilsson
Urzula Davidsen

Contents for Marker

1. Church complex today

2. Exterior of Church

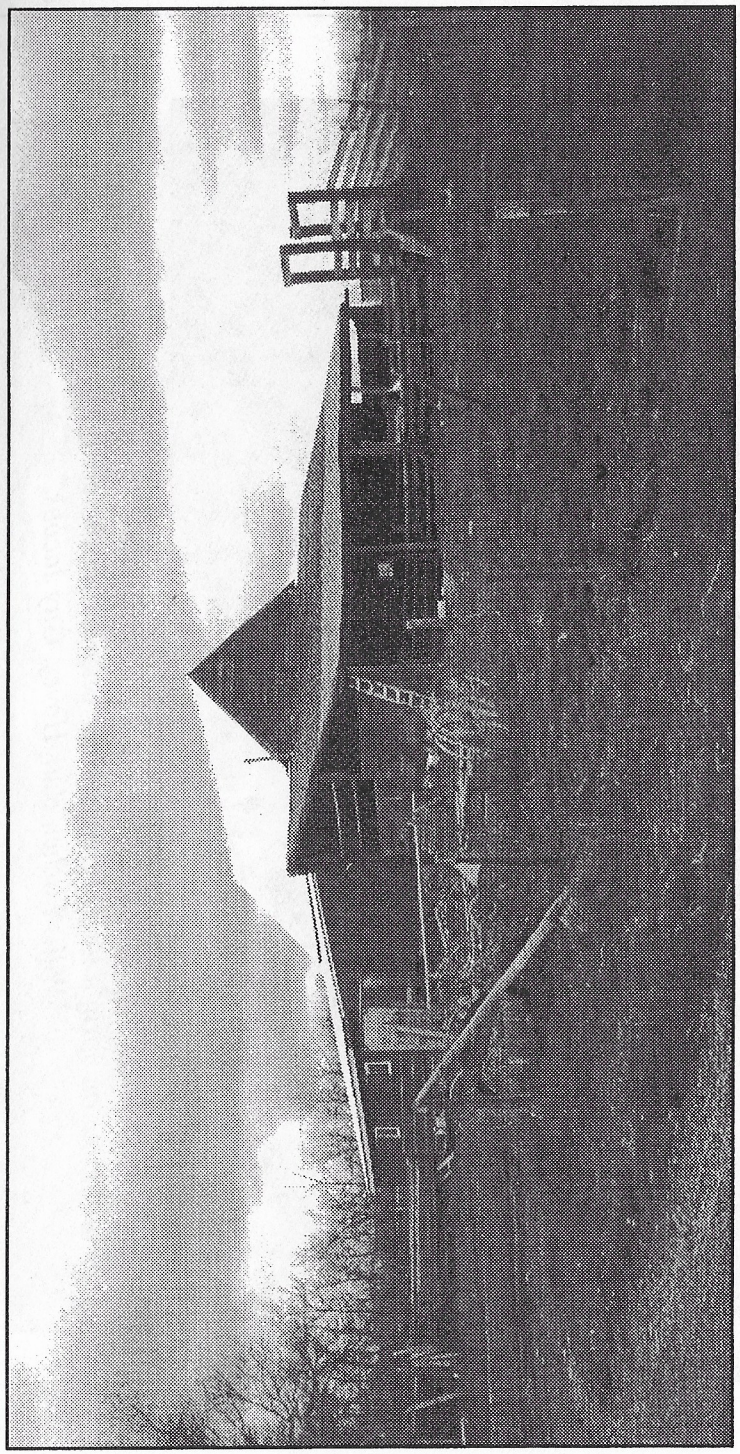
3. Inside of Church

4. Marker site and sod turning

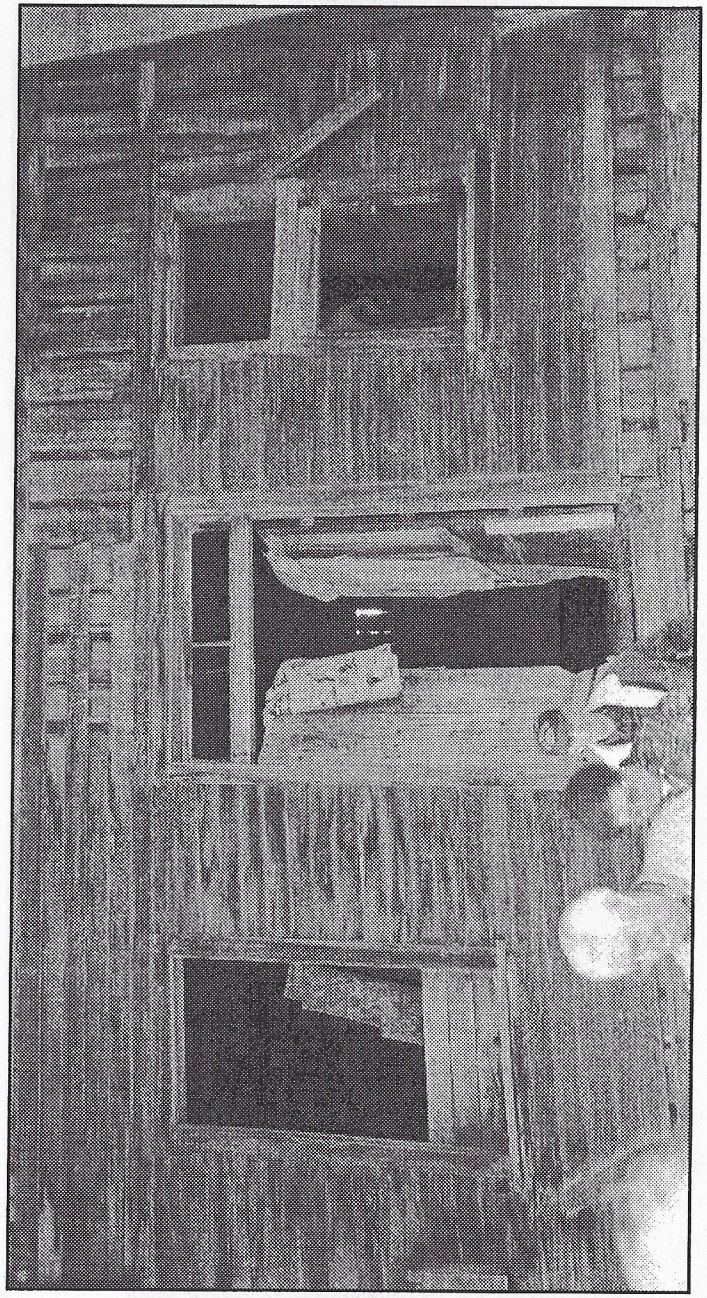
5. The Boulder

6. A page for finished Marker with plaque

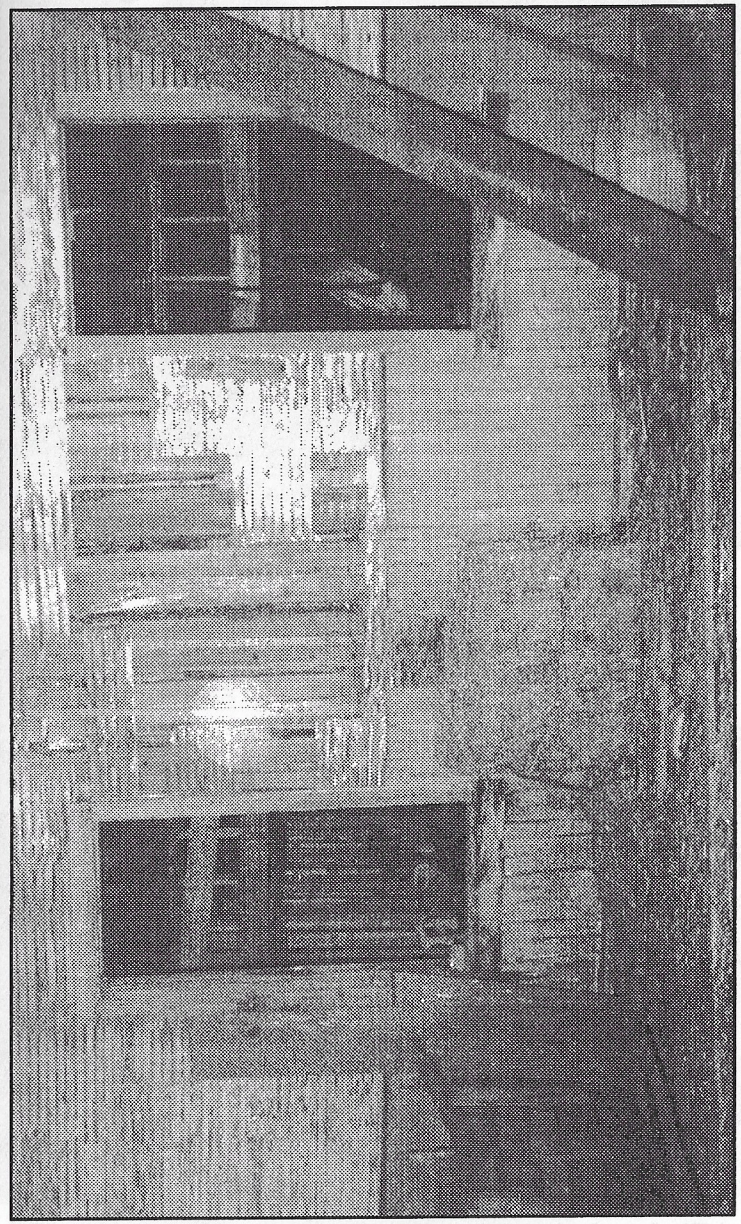
7. Inscription on Marker



Caldwell Chuch
Dedicated in 1900. Central part of a barn in 1996.



Exterior of Caldwell Church. 1996
Note: Siding on upright logs of front wall. Transom over the double door. Windows.
Willis Pitcher, Ruth Hovey, Guy Jacobs.



Inside of Caldwell Church 1996.
Note: Upright logs in walls. Lath for plastering. Wainscoting and mopboard on lower wall. Windows.

Marker Site

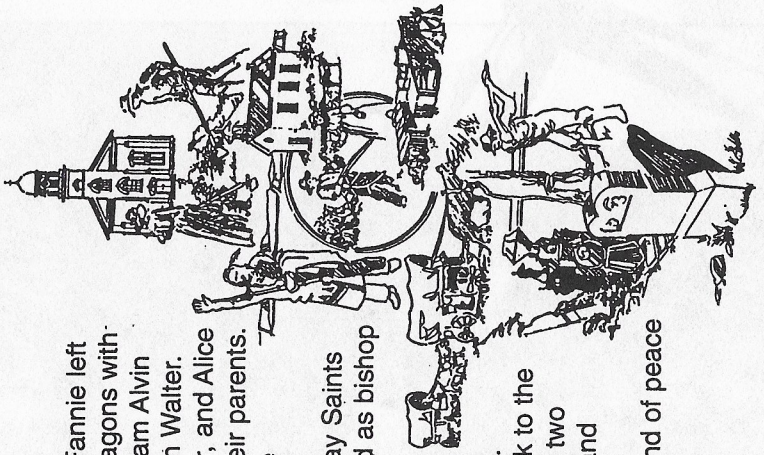
Sod Turning
25 May 1996

Ethel Pitcher, Judy Nilsson, Ruth Hovey, Elaine Nelson, Dennis Jacobs, Georgia Fooks, Urgula Davidsen, Guy Jacobs, Glady Hall, Thora Adamson, Mary Jacobs

Placing the Boulder
27 May 1996
Mel Weston on machine
Elaine Nelson, Ethel Pitcher, Thora Adamson, Urzula Davidsen, Ruth Hovey

Mary Johnson
1st Vice Pres.
Norma Jones
4th Vice Pres.
of the International Society of Daughters of Utah Pioneers.

Caldwell Alberta Canada



In May 1898 David Henry Caldwell, Sr. with his wife Fannie left St. John, Utah for Canada. They traveled in covered wagons with four married sons: David Henry Jr. James Albert, Abraham Alvin and John Edgar with their families and an unmarried son Walter. Three married daughters; Caroline Gillman, Fannie Garner, and Alice Morgan and their families, and three younger daughters also accompanied their parents.

They arrived in Canada in July 1898 and settled on a flat between the Belly River and Fish Creek, laid out a town site and called it Caldwell, N.W.T..

In December 1898 a branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized with D.H.Caldwell, Sr. as the presiding elder. He was sustained as bishop when the branch became a ward in 1899. In 1900 a church was dedicated and a post office was opened with D.H, Caldwell as postmaster.

In 1906 the Mormon Church bought the 65,000 acre Cochrane Ranch across the Belly River from the Caldwell townsite, opening it up for settlement. Many bought land there. Others moved to nearby towns and a few went back to the United States. By 1911 all who had lived in Caldwell had moved away leaving two dwelling houses, the church and a schoolhouse on the townsite. The church and dwelling house are in use in 1996.

We honor these pioneers for making it possible for us to live in this land of peace and plenty.

1996 **No. 491** **Cardston First Camp.**

Excerpts from Emily Caldwell Lee Burt's memoirs

July 1996

Excerpts from the memoirs of Emily Caldwell Lee Burt who was the daughter of David Henry Caldwell Jr. and his wife Sarah Elizabeth Davies. Emily was born in 1890. Being 8 years old when she came to Canada with her parents in 1898 we learn many things about the life of Caldwell pioneers.

Father opened a store in Mercer, Utah, a mining town. Uncles Alvin and Edgar, young married men, who worked with him, began to partake of the mining camp environment and Father was concerned. He also had sons growing up and he felt all would be better in other surroundings. At this time some Western Canada literature came into Father's hands and he became interested. In July of 1897 Father made a trip to Canada. He loved it and saw great possibilities in the heavily grassed grazing lands of the prairies of Alberta.

Father closed out all his businesses and in May 1890 we were on our way to Canada with 2 covered wagons and a surrey which Mother drove. Our household effects were shipped by rail. The surrey was a lovely buggy with a top, mud guards and a long step from wheel to wheel. It looked much like the early cars that came out later. My brother John and I rode on the steps of the surrey all the way. The whole of Grandfather's family except 2 were in the caravan. Grandfather and Grandmother rode in a white topped democrat. This was a 4 wheeled light wagon with seats, one behind the other. With sereval covered wagons the democrat and the surrey we were quite a caravan on the 7 week trek. Mother baked our bread in a heavy iron oven which had legs and sat over the coals. For me it was a wonderful adventure, one of the high lights of my life. We crossed the Canadian border at Emigration Gap 12 July, 1898, forty six days from the time we left Utah. After arriving in Cardston we moved on west about 20 miles into the foothills of the

Rockies where Father's cousin Abraham Caldwell had settled. We first camped on Fish Creek and later moved and pitched our tents about half way between Fish Creek and Belly River. Grandfather bought a place on the Belly River. They named it River Grove. The little village was later known as Caldwell, Alberta.

Logs were hauled and homes started. It was impossible to get our home built, so a large barn was built, and for added warmth tents were pitched inside the barn. Here we spent our first winter in Canada. Uncle Ed and Aunt Vilates tent was in the barn too, so there were 3 tents. The kitchen was the middle one with the bedroom on each side. The day we moved into the barn is one to be remembered. In the kitchen sat the stove. The stove pipes were there but it was a long stretch from that stove to the south end of the barn. Did you ever set up a stove with a long stretch of pipes and elbows? No? Well, you could not possibly appreciate this situtation. You can work the sections together, but as you progress, or hope you are progressing, the sections separate and you start all over again! My father was not a patient man. It was cold and the day slipped away in the struggle. My sister Eliza sat in a rocking chair with our new baby sister in her arms, all bundled up in quilts and blankets, and the struggle went on. If you can fight this battle with the stove pipe and win, before you lose your patience, you deserve an Oscar. My father didn't win his, but at last the pipe was up and a cozy fire burned. We all went to bed in our new Canadian winter home, wiser, happier and well content. Thankful the stovepipe was up.

Another exciting thing happened soon after this to the "BarnDwellers". Aunt Vilate expected a new baby and so it happened that "the days were accomplished that she should be delivered." Now this barn with our family of 8 children was hardly a place for this event. Uncle Alvin's house was finished, so in the wee small hours of the morning the cavalcade formed and marched from the barn to Uncle Alvin's home. Aunt Alice lead the procession with "a lantern in her hand." Next came Uncle Ed helping the leading character in the drama, then followed willing helpers carrying the neccessities. Grandmother always said she brought up the rear. Lucille arrived safe and sound. Earlier when my sister Joyce

Dr. Brant, but a blizzard came up and they arrived a bit too late at River Grove.

Arriving in Canada in July it was too late to put in a crop or a garden so we had no vegetables. Johnny Anderson "May his tribe increase" turned over a good sized patch of rutabagas to us. They were delicious and I love them to this day.

Father harvested a crop the summer of 1899. I remember Mother cooking for the threshers wile we were still in the tent in the barn. Farmers wives in the age of combines know nothing of cooking for threshers. Mother had breakfast ready before daylight for 14 or 15 men, with dinner at 12 and supper at 6. The amount of food that disappeared was unbelievable to me.

They came drawing the huge seperator into the grainfield with horses, and men with teams and hayrachs hauled the bundles to the machine where 2 men worked. One man cut the twine, as the grain had been cut and tied by a binder, and the other man fed the grain into the separator, which blew the straw into a stack, and the grain came out below into sacks which were tied when full and hauled in a wagon to the granary. Horse power ran the separator using10 or 12 horses hooked up in a circle and a man stood in the centre with a long whip keeping the horses going around.

After the threshing was done the straw ticks were emptied, washed and filled with sweet smelling straw. What wonderful beds they made. They were the only mattresss we had. Now too, the rag carpets were taken up and hung over the clothes line and really given a beating and an airing. The floors were scrubbed and fresh straw spread over them. The carpets were put over the straw. Talk about your foam rubber pads of today! They have nothing over the nice soft spring of good clean straw.

After a big May snow storm not too long after we came Uncle Jim Gillman loaded all their belongs and the family into his covered wagon and set out for Oregon. The lovely praires crocus was in bloom Uncle Jim said "I'm not staying in a country where even the flowers have to wear fur overcoats."

The Gillman's left behind them the grave of their dear little Mable whose death was the first in Caldwell. Charles A. and Maggie Terry lost a little baby. Robert and May Carter lost a little

girl and James and Minerva Billingsley lost little Minerva. So there were 4 little graves on a lovely flat on the Belly River.

We were a branch of the Mountain View Ward for awhile until we were made a Ward with Grandfather Caldwell as our Bishop. There was no church so they met at our home. A very nice little Church was soon built, which was used during the week for school. Wide boards were hinged along the walls for desks. They were let down flat against the walls for Sunday. There was also a tithing barn and a granary built to take care of the tithing which was paid in kind at this time. Our first school teacher was W.B. Webb from Eastern Canada.

When father killed pigs we children hurried off with spare ribs and liver for all. Mother and Father cured those lovely hams and bacon in brine, then dried, put them in close sacks and buried them in the wheat bin. Mother made head cheese, sausage, faggots, and pickled pigs feet. In July Father killed a beef, a nice fat 2 year old, so it was prime beef we ate. Mother took care of the beef, fried all the steaks and packed them in large crocks and poured hot grease over them. These crocks were kept in the cellar and the steaks came out just lovely and fresh. She made corned beef, rendered her own lard and kept all the grease to make soap. There wasn't one thing wasted on those pigs or beef. Mothers butter was superior. One summer she made 100 pounds a week. We all helped with milking, separating, and churning but no one touched the big butter worker but Mother. She also made cheese.

Father took big grists of wheat to the mill and came home with flour and all the wheat products for our family. Large orders of groceries were stored for winter. The only fruit we could buy was evaporated fruit. It was very good and made delicious pies. Mother dried service berries, made chokecherry jelly and wild strawberry jam. One summer strawberries were so plentiful she made 20 gallons of jam.

One thing I must not forget in describing our way of life is the old wood pile. It must contain enough wood to see us through the winter, not only to heat our home, but to cook every mouthful we ate. You modern homemakers who push a button and set a dial, can you feature our mothers standing by to add wood to keep the

kettle boiling or make a big pot of soup? There were no 2 or 3 minutes to heat up a can of this or that. They really cooked. Mother's hand was used to test the oven to see if it was just right to bake pies or lovely loaves of bread, and that hand was as accurate as the most modern inventions. I can hear Mother say "Emily, run and get a pan of chips to hurry up the fire." The old wood pile was vital. Oh yes, the wood pile was also the place where chickens would lose their heads before a big chicken dinner.

As young people we surely had a happy time, horseback riding and oh! the sleigh rides in the winter, in the big bob sled with a lively team from father's stable. A sleigh ride was not a sleigh ride without a tip over. Sometimes the whole load would ride down the river to the Cochrane Ranch and the cowboys would roust out the Chinese cook and a real feast was spread before us. That was fun.

Our dances were so much fun. Besides our own young folks many came from Mountain View, also cowboys from the Cochrane Ranch, and North West Mounted Policeman in their red coats. They were stationed at Big Bend detachment a few miles down the river. At Christmas there was a big tree in the church for all. Christmas gifts were placed on the tree and Santa handed them out. There was a program and then dancing.

This is the story of the little town of Caldwell that Father founded. As Grandfather David Henry Caldwell Sr. was responsible for the Caldwell family moving from Ontario, Canada to Utah, so his son David Henry Caldwell Jr. was responsible for the move fomr Utah to Alberta, Canada. I am so glad he brought us here.

I loved this little town which bore our name and thinking of it brings to mind Oliver Goldsmith's "The Deserted Village"

Sweet Auburn (Caldwell) loveliest village of the plain;

. . .

Where humble happiness endeared each scene,

. . .

The decent church that topped the neighboring hill

. . .

Sweet smiling village of the lawn,
Thy sports are fled and all thy charms withdrawn.

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